

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 924.31

may, with the approval of the Secretary, obtain nominations for handler members and their alternates by mail ballot. Each handler shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he handles prunes, which vote shall be weighted by the volume of prunes handled by such handler during the then current fiscal year. No handler shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year. If a person is both a grower and a handler of prunes, such person may vote either as a grower or as a handler but not as both.

§ 924.23 Selection.

From the nominations made pursuant to § 924.22, or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the 6 grower members of the committee, the 3 handler members of the committee, and an alternate for each such member.

§ 924.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in § 924.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee on the basis of the representation provided for in § 924.20.

§ 924.25 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 924.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§ 924.22 and 924.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such va-

cancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in § 924.20.

§ 924.27 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee, during the absence or at the request of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event both a member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member or the committee may designate any other alternate member from the same district and group (handler or grower) to serve in such member's place and stead.

§ 924.30 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

- (a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
- (b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;
- (c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
- (d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 924.31 Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:

- (a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;
- (b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and to define the duties of each;
- (c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;